

## SHORTER NOTES

**First Record of *Pellaea ovata* (Pteridaceae) from Brazil.**—According to the monograph of *Pellaea* sect. *Pellaea* by Alice Tryon (Ann. Missouri Bot. Gard. 44:125–193. 1957), the members of this section (about 10 species) occur primarily in the southwestern United States and Mexico and four species and their varieties (*P. ternifolia* Cav., *P. ovata* (Desv.) Weath., *P. sagittata* (Cav.) Link, and *P. myrtillifolia* Mett. ex Kuhn) are also distributed along the Andes, reaching to Argentina and Chile; only one species occurs in Africa (*P. rufa* A.F. Tryon). Alice Tryon (l.c.) also commented that Hicken (Soc. Arg. Cienc. Nat. 13:206. 1916) had reported *P. ternifolia* from Minas Gerais, Brazil, but she had not seen material of this species from Brazil during the revision of this group. Subsequent authors such as Sota (in Cabrera, Fl. Prov. Jujuy Rep. Argentina 13:109–111. 1977), Tryon and Stolze (Fieldiana, Bot., n.s. 22:2–83. 1989), Murillo-Pulido and Harker-Useche (Helechos y Pl. Afines Col.:158–159. 1990), Yatskievych (in Moran and Riba, Fl. Meso. 1:136–137. 1995), Arbeláez (in Jørgensen and León-Yáñez, Monogr. Syst. Bot. Missouri Bot. Gard. 75:168–176. 1999), Prado (in Hokche *et al.*, Nuevo Cat. Fl. Vasc. Venez.:162. 2008), and Ponce *et al.* (in Zuloaga *et al.*, Monogr. Syst. Bot. Missouri Bot. Gard. 107:161. 2008) also confirmed this pattern of distribution of these four *Pellaea* species along the Andean Cordillera, and Prado and Sylvestre (in Forzza *et al.*, Cat. Pl. and Fungi of Brazil, 1:557–558. 2010) corroborated their absence in Brazil.

However, recently, in 2010, the first author, during field work for his Master thesis, found a population of *Pellaea ovata* growing in the mountains in the center of the state of São Paulo, more precisely in the Municipality of Botucatu, Pavuna Farm, trail to the waterfall, 22°50'15"S, 48°30'40"W, 750 m, 13 Jan 2010, *Biral & Gomes 511* (BHCB, HRCB, SP). In 2011 we visited the same population of this species and another sample was collected: Pavuna Farm, Road Marechal Rondon (SP 300), km 259, between Botucatu and São Manuel, 22°50'S, 48°30'W, 600 m, 6 May 2011, *Prado et al. 2143* (DUKE, HRCB, MO, NY, P, SP, UC). *Pellaea ovata* belongs to the Section *Pellaea* and it can be easily recognized by the scandent habit, creeping and dichotomously branched rhizomes, flexuous and pubescent rachises, stalked and ovate to cordate segments, and lamina glabrous on both surfaces (Fig. 1). Our two collections represent the first record of *P. ovata* from Brazil.

*Pellaea ovata* is distributed from the southern United States (Turner *et al.*, Atlas Vasc. Pl. Texas, v.2, Sida, Bot. Misc., pg. 666. 2003) to Argentina, including Central America and Hispaniola (Tryon l.c.). At the Pavuna Farm, it grows among grasses and at the bases of *Aechmea distichantha* Lem. (Bromeliaceae) and *Praecereus euchlorus* (F.A.C. Weber) N.P. Taylor (Cactaceae). The Pavuna Farm encompasses the largest fragment of the “Mata da Pavuna” and occupies an area of 378.49 ha at an elevation of 600–761 m. The relief is steep, with slopes between 30°–90° of inclination, and soils that are shallow, dry, and sandy. There are two distinct climatic seasons in this region,



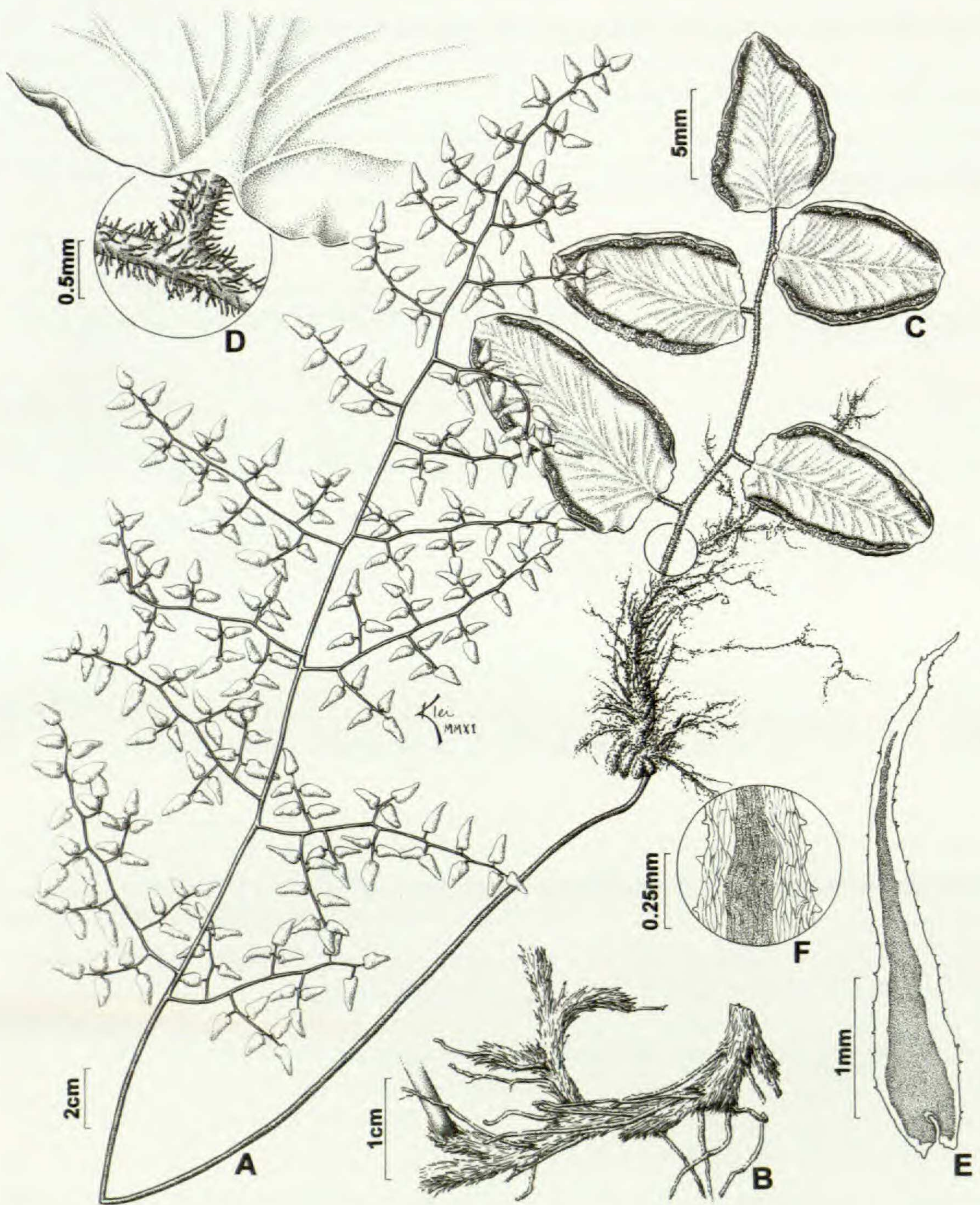


FIG. 1. A–F *Pellaea ovata*. A. Habit. B. Rhizome. C. Detail of the pinnules abaxially. D. Detail of the hairs on the segment stalk. E. Rhizome scale. F. Detail of the rhizome scale (Prado et al. 2143, SP).

the rainy summer and dry winter. Average monthly temperatures range from 12.4°C (September) to 28.1°C (January) and mean monthly rainfall from 270.15 mm (January) to 27.92 mm (August) (data graciously provided by the Meteorological Station of Experimental Farm São Manuel, Faculdade de



Ciências Agrárias, University of São Paulo State, Botucatu, SP, Brazil). The main vegetation in the area is semideciduous forest (i.e., non-Atlantic forest) and on the tops of the slopes there are some xerophitic elements among rocks, such as *Aechmea distichantha*, *Praecereus euchlorus* and *Cereus hildmannianus* K. Schum. (Cactaceae). This area belongs to the "Residual Pleistocenic Seasonal Formations Arc" in South America (Prado and Gibbs, Ann. Missouri Bot. Gard. 80:902–927. 1993). According to these authors, nowadays this arc contains remnants of the dry vegetation of that time, including the genera noted above. The arborescent component of the slopes in this area is dominated by *Aspidosperma riedelii* Müll. Arg. (Apocynaceae), a species cited by Prado and Gibbs (l.c.) as typical of dry seasonal forests of South America. *Pellaea ovata* can be added here as another example of a relictual element, because its distribution is coincident with this dry arc, especially along the line of latitudes between 15°–28°S, between Bolivia (Chuquisaca, La Paz, Tarija, Cochabamba), Argentina (Catamarca, Salta and Tucumán), and Brazil (São Paulo). It is also cited as occurring in dry vegetation in Ecuador (Wiggins, Amer. Fern J. 36(1):1–7. 1946).

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